

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 remain pending in the above-referenced application and are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

The Examiner did not consider the reference cited in the PTO-Form 1449 because the Examiner believes that Applicants did not provide a concise explanation of the relevance of this reference. Applicants disagree. The concise explanation is found at page 1, lines 8-13. Applicants have attached a courtesy copy of the PTO-Form 1449 listing this reference and request that the Examiner initial and return this copy in the next communication from the Patent Office.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In view of the amendments made thereto, Applicants submit that this rejection has been obviated.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,448,199 to Choudhary et al. ("Choudhary") in view of United States Patent No. 4,002,595 to Adelman ("Adelman"). Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the "coating of an electrically highly conductive first metal" is "structured as a printed circuit board." Support for this amendment is found at least at page 2, lines 10-12, of the specification. In Choudhary, an insulating substrate (column 9, line 61 "alumina") is to be coated by a conductive layer (column 11, line 66 ff: palladium, silver). According to column 9, line 60 ff, the inner surface and thus at least one surface of the electrically insulating substrate (alumina) is thus first coated by a coating of a material having high electrical conductivity (column 11, line 66 ff). A layer made of a second metal (silver) is deposited onto this first layer. According to the specification in column 12, line 11 ff, the substrate with the alternating layers is then fired at a temperature of 600° C. However, Choudhary does not teach forming such layers as structures of printed circuit boards. Since Adelman does not overcome this deficiency in Choudhary, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As for the remaining rejections of certain of the dependent claims based on the combination of Choudhary and other references, since none of these other references relied on in those remaining rejections overcomes the deficiency in Choudhary, withdrawal of these other rejections is respectfully requested as well.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/9/06

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